indigenous construction of two submarines at Mazagaon Dock Limited, Mumbai. There is a proposal for import of two submarines from Russia. The discussions with Russian authorities are in progress.

Delay in payment of salary to employees of Race Course Air Force School

4145. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH:
SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Air Force School, Race Course, New Delhi under the management of Indian Air Force, has not paid salary to its employees for the last few months;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have taken any action for this lapse on the part of the concerned officials; and

(d) if not, by when action is proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Salary is regularly being paid to the staff of Air Force School, Race Course, New Delhi. At times, some delay may takes place in disbursement of salaries on account of delay in release of grant by Directorate of Education, Delhi Government.

(c) and (d) The delay is not attributable to the Air Force management of the school.

Indo-Russian deal on Air Defence System

4146. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:
SHRI MUKESH R. PATEL:
SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA':

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finalised a deal with Russia on obtain an Air Defence System;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are aware of the performance of this defence system;

(d) the number of countries are using this system and the performance report; and

(e) the terms of payment for this system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Export subsidy to Goa Shipyard Limited

4147. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Goa Shipyard Limited has sought export subsidy to become price-competitive against Chinese Shipyards in the $ 1 billion market for small and medium vessels in East Asia;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal and implications thereof;

(c) Government's reaction thereto;

(d) the details of the action taken thereon and present status of the proposal; and

(e) the details of the small and medium vessels manufactured and exported during the last three years and targets for 1997-98;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) to (d) It is

understood that the Indian Shipbuilders Association (ISBA) has represented to the Ministry of Surface Transport that subsidy should be given to the Indian Shipbuilders in order to make them level with overseas shipbuilders in international competitiveness.

The Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) is also a member of the ISBA. The representation is under examination in the Ministry of Surface Transport.

(e) A. 5.5 ton Bollard Pull Tug "Veeru" was built and exported to the Government of Maldives at a cost of US $ 1.2 million, by GSL. GSL has targetted to procure one export order during 1997-98.

Preserving INS Vikrant as a Symbol in Museum

4148. SHRI K.M. KHAN:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have been requested to preserve I.N.S. Vikrant as a symbol of partriotism and nationalism;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to consider the requests made for preservation of I.N.S. Vikrant; and

(d) if so, details thereof, and if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) to (d) A proposal has been received to convert the decommissioned ship INS Vikrant into a naval museum. Decision in this regard would depend, inter alia, on feasibility of such conversion.

Ex-officio Membership to M.Ps. and M.L.As in Cantonment Boards

4149. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been requested to give Ex-officio membership to M.Ps and M.L.As in 63 Cantonment Boards of country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have taken any action on these requests so far, and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Requests have been received from the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Shri Babu Rao Paranjape, M.P. and Shri Nandi Yelliah, M.P. to give ex-officio Membership to M.Ps and M.L.As. in the Cantonment Boards.

(c) and (d) It has not been found feasible to agree to the proposal, as under the existing frame-work of the Cantonment Act, 1924, there is no provision for nominating M.L.As to the Cantonment Boards.

This decision has been intimated to the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh and the Members of Parliament concerned.

Posting Air Attaches in Indian Diplomatic Missions

4150. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) since when have Air Attaches in the Indian diplomatic missions in Brazil, South Africa, China and Turkey have not been posted;

(b) the reasons therefor; and

(c) the number of diplomatic Missions abroad where the Air Attaches have not been posted and since when?